

Message Text

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67

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 SY-04 SCS-03 SCA-01 PPT-02

JUSE-00 DRC-01 /092 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5849

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 7549

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION BRASILIA FROM RECIFE 02 OCT 74
REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO.

QTE

CONFIDENTIAL RECIFE 0178

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS BR

SUBJECT: DETENTION OF AMERICAN CITIZEN MORRIS

REF: RECIFE 173 AND 177

1. RESPONSES WERE RAPID BUT INCONCLUSIVE TO MY FORMAL WRITTEN REQUESTS TO LOCAL DOPS, FEDERAL POLICE, AND FORTH ARMY AUTHORITIES CONCERNING THE WHEREABOUTS OF MORRIS AND HANSON. DOPS AND THE FEDERAL POLICE STATED THAT AFTER AN INVESTIGATION OF THEIR DEPARTMENTS NO RPT NO AMERICANS BY THOSE NAMES HAD BEEN DETAINED IN RECIFE.

2. A SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT RESPONSE CAME FROM THE FOURTH ARMY. COL MEZIAT, CHIEF OF THE G-2, TELEPHONED YESTERDAY EVENING AND ASKED FOR A MEETING. I VOLUNTEERED TO MEET HIM AT ONCE IN HIS OFFICE.

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3. MEZIAT, WHILE DISCLAIMING ANY KNOWLEDGE THAT MORRIS OR HANSON

HAD BEEN DETAINED BY SECURITY AUTHORITIES, TOLD ME THAT NEW INFORMATION INDICATING THAT MORRIS WAS A SUBVERSIVE HAD BEEN UNCOVERED RECENTLY. HE CONTENDED THAT MORRIS WAS AIDING AND ABETTING ELEMENTS OF THE PARTIDO COMUNISTA DO BRASIL.

4. MEZIAT ASSURED ME SEVERAL TIMES DURING THE COURSE OF 40 MINUTE CONVERSATION THAT IN THE EVENT HE DISCOVERS THAT MORRIS IS BEING HELD, NO HARM WILL COME TO MORRIS AND THAT HE WILL BE GIVEN ACCESS TO DUE PROCESS OF BRAZILIAN SECURITY LAW.

5. IN A SLIP-UP ONCE DURING THE MEETING HE SAID HE THOUGHT HANSON WAS AN INNOCENT BYSTANDER AND WOULD BE RELEASED SHORTLY. I PRESSED HIM FOR A CLARIFICATION OF HIS INITIAL DISCLAIMER OF KNOWLEDGE CONCERNING THE DETENTION OF THE TWO MEN. HE CORRECTED HIMSELF SAYING THAT IF RPT IF HANSON HAD BEEN DETAINED HE HAD NO INFORMATION INDICATING THAT HE SHOULD BE HELD AS A SUBVERSIVE.

6. I URGED HIM SEVERAL TIMES TO INVESTIGATE THE SECURITY ORGANS TO DETERMINE THE WHEREABOUTS OF HANSON AND MORRIS AND INFORM ME IMMEDIATELY OF HIS FINDINGS. HE EXPRESSED HIS WILLINGNESS TO DO SO AND SAID HE WOULD HAVE AN ANSWER WITHIN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS. I RESPONDED THAT I APPRECIATED HIS COOPERATION, BUT SAID THAT GIVEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISAPPEARANCES I MAY NOT BE ABLE TO WAIT 24 HOURS. HE PROMISED TO ACT AS EXPEDITIOUSLY AS POSSIBLE.

7. COMMENT: IT WAS APPARENT TO ME DURING THE CONVERSATION WITH MEZIAT THAT HE KNOWS ABOUT THE DETENTION AND MAY HAVE ORDERED IT. HE WAS POLITE AND FRIENDLY, BUT CLEARLY BELIEVES THAT MORRIS IS A COMMUNIST AGENT AND MUST EVENTUALLY BE TRIED UNDER THE BRAZILIAN NATIONAL SECURITY LAW. WITHOUT BEING ACCUSATORY, I MADE IT PLAIN THAT IT SEEMED TO ME MORRIS HAD BEEN DETAINED BY THE SECURITY AUTHORITIES AND THAT I, UNDER INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT, MUST BE INFORMED OF THIS IMMEDIATELY AND HAVE ACCESS TO THE DETAINED. MEZIAT APPEARED TO APPRECIATE MY POSITION AND REPEATEDLY ASSURED ME HE WOULD ACT PROMPTLY. BROWN UNQTE.
CRIMMINS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARRESTS, CONSULAR LEGAL ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: blochd0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BRASIL07549
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740278-0908
From: BRASILIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741081/aaaacqwi.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: RECIFE 173 AND 177
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: blochd0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 JUN 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 SEP 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <03 MAR 2003 by CollinP0>; WITHDRAWN <13 Jun 2005 by BoyleJA, PRIVACY>; RELEASED <21 JUN 2005 by powellba2>; APPROVED <21 JUN 2005 by blochd0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DETENTION OF AMERICAN CITIZEN MORRIS
TAGS: PINS, CASC, BR, US, (MORRIS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005